

## **Transcript of Bryan Seymour's interview with Lana Mitchell for Today Tonight.**

### **On her work:**

"I grow the Australian native Flannel flower."

"It's a small, almost like a daisy-looking flower. It's white and it has green tips on each of the petals and you find it around NSW particularly around the Sydney basin area, down as south as Bega and south east Queensland."

### **On being named New South Wales Rural Woman of the Year 2010:**

"Well I was extremely flattered and honoured. It was for innovative use of essentially growing and promoting, cultivating this flower and exporting it. I've exported it to Japan, the USA, to various parts of Europe, Germany, Switzerland and so forth and I've been very active in trying to promote, within Australia an education campaign to tell consumers what wildflowers exist and when they're available, that sort of thing."

"I'll definitely be here in ten years' time. I've become really involved in another organisation called New Rural Industries Australia; which is more an alliance, an organisation that's around networking, people involved in the new, innovative industries and sharing information so you don't have to blaze the trail yourself, reinvent the wheels. So between that and the flowers I've got a lot to keep myself busy."

### **On Scientology:**

"Oh it's wonderful because it gives you some basic stable principals that you can use and operate with, whether it's in your personal life or your business life, yeah I found it really practical."

"I got involved in scientology as a teenager. I must have been 13 or 14 and I did a communications course originally. My mother originally had some involvement at that time and she had introduced me to it and asked me if I wanted to do a communications course. She's not involved with the scientology church and hasn't been for about 25 years at this point."

"She still believes that the technology itself is valid and that L Ron Hubbard came up with some interesting technology that is workable, but she does not want to be involved in the church management or the organisations at this time."

"In 1988 I had made the decision that I wanted to dedicate my life to this, so I moved to Sydney and a short while later I joined the seal organisation so that was the beginning of 1989."

### **On Conditions at Scientology Sydney:**

"They were shocking, they were just horrid! At that time this is the late 80s, the place that we were to sleep was cockroach ridden, you know the mouldy, mildew smell, it was an old terrace place in Sydney, it was awful."

"I remember when I first arrived in the Sea Organisation I was shocked, I was really startled at the living standards that the staff were especially under, not through any

choice of their own but that was all that was provided, there was no extra money for them to be able to do something else.”

**On conditions at Scientology Los Angeles:**

“At the Hollywood Inn, which is right on Hollywood boulevard, I lived there for about a year or so and that was a very old building that’s since been renovated but at that time it hadn’t been renovated, the elevators didn’t work, it was a very tall building so in that in itself was a fire risk.”

“The place was leaking, the pipes were leaking, the electricity, the wiring was old and malfunctioning and we had a little tiny room with a small little en suite with a bath and a toilet and a basin and I remember there was a leaking pipe upstairs and it leaked into the ceiling of the bathroom to a point where... the whole dry wall was bulbous, hanging down and then finally it all collapsed.

“It took us months you know we just had the whole bathroom ceiling was exposed for months, we had trouble getting it repaired, but that was an example of the way we lived back then and that was in 1991/1992.”

**On conditions at Scientology International Base, Hemet, California:**

“The living spaces there were generally rented apartments that were rented by the church in mass and in large hall apartment blocks. But they’d cram the staff into them so where there was a two bedroom apartment, there’d be six people, three couples and they would have one couple in one bedroom, another couple in one bedroom and then they would make the living room into a third bedroom so they became little closet rooms.”

“I mean it was still certainly not just regular living like anybody else would be used to.”

**On first meeting David Miscavige:**

“I do, I remember it vividly, because he was taunting me. I had never met him, never had a conversation with him before he came up the stairs.”

“I was standing at the photocopier and I turned around as one does, you know, the holy man has arrived! I turned around and I said ‘Hello sir’ and he said ‘What’s your name?’ And I said ‘My name is Lana’ and he said ‘No its not, its Leena.’ And I looked at him confused and stunned and wasn’t quite sure what that meant and then he laughed and walked off and I stood there going ‘What was that all about?’”

“Anyway there was a series of meetings after that, encounters where every time I would meet him he would tell me that my name wasn’t Lana, it was Lena and he got some sort of enjoyment out of seeing me perplexed and unsure about how to respond, anyway so I vividly remember my first meeting with him.”

**On David Miscavige:**

“There’s a whole reputation or a general air that is created about him by the other staff so you know essentially staff at the International Headquarters would call around and say the Chairman of the Board is coming down, you know, be ready and everybody was sort of walking on eggshells.”

“It really started to kick in about 94/ 95 is when it really started to get quite psycho.”

“I used to stand at staff musters and staff meetings and you know he would say I am the Pope of Scientology, I've heard him say it directly to me.”

“There are many things about David Miscavige that strike me as odd. Many, many things. When I was working in his organisation which is called the Religious Technology Center, I worked there for six years and there were too many instances to recall really of how many times he would be spouting off or giving dissertations at the staff that literally made no sense, just rambles.”

“It would have been in 1994 in a meeting in the International Building and he struck his brother Ronnie Miscavige. He hit him with the back of his hand, right in the stomach and Ronnie wasn't expecting it and it winded him, that was the first time.”

“I've seen him do a similar thing to Norman Starkey many times who is the trustee of Scientology

“I've seen him hit Ray Mithoff. I know I've heard many accounts of other instances of violence which I know would be true because I have witnessed enough myself to be able to say well you know there's substance to that because I've seen and witnessed it myself.”

“I've never seen him strike a woman or hit a woman. But he is intimidating and that's what he uses to try and coerce and control people. He uses emotional blackmail essentially to control people.”

“He does character assassination continually on anybody that he considers to be a threat; anybody who he considers is speaking out or has the potential to be a threat, he will go out of his way to assassinate or to destroy the character of that person in the eyes of others.”

“This is how he 'de-powered' all of the other executives within international Scientology; this is how he's become virtually the head of Scientology. There is nobody else left, everybody else if you go back and have a look at videos of events back in the nineties you see... There all gone, Guillaume Leserve, Mark Yager, Mark Ingber...”

“When I left, the entire place was in a state of fear. You could not look sideways without being worried about whether David Miscavige saw you or somebody saw you that would report to him. I mean it is complete control of the people and what they're doing in their lives.”

### **On David Miscavige's Lifestyle:**

“David Miscavige lives a lifestyle that very few people actually know about; he lives a life of royalty”

“I'll give you an example, I worked at one point, and after I was removed from the Religious Technology Center I was put into the kitchens to work and for several

years, some three years. I worked in the unit that serviced, that cooked for David Miscavige, his wife and his entourage as well as his guests.”

“We used to cook meals for him every two and a half hours. there was to be a meal prepared and served and ready every two and half hours, fitting to a specific calorie intake, certain amount of fat, certain amount of carbohydrate, certain amount of protein, all very highly regulated but it had to be the best of the best.”

“We’re talking organic chicken breast, we’re talking Atlantic Salmon flown in fresh, we’re talking the best materials that are available. The only lamb we ever got was the corn fed lamb from New Zealand.”

“We used to spend over a thousand dollars, this is in early two thousand, we spend over \$1000 a week just on the food order to service this handful of individuals.”

“(at the same time staff were getting paid) \$50 a week, but often not that because often we’d already be on reduced pay or some of our pay would be taken to for gifts for Executives or for Christmas or whatever.”

“Well he has a personal chef and at the time I was the assistant to the chef and did my training and my work in the kitchen underneath that chef. So there was two chefs that worked full time, there were four stewards, there was somebody to handle laundry, there is a personal steward that handles all the food, one steward that handles all the tailoring making sure that all clothes and uniforms fit perfectly.”

“He has his own personal hair dresser that gets flown around with him where ever he may go, a chiropractor who gets flown around the world whenever he goes off, whether it be to Clearwater or to the UK or where ever it might be. There’s a whole entourage and then his living quarters, I mean, there’s no expense barred to make sure that he has the best of the best. And that’s not just at that location; it’s also at any location he’s going to go to.”

“We’re talking Audio Visual equipment, lavish furnishings, essentially anything that he wishes or wants; he has a six car garage filled with many luxury cars.”

“This is the point that has really rubbed me and this is I guess what has brought me to speak out now is the fact that... people don’t actually know, particularly parishioners within Scientology, they don’t know the way this individual is operating the lifestyle he runs and what he’s doing behind the scenes.”

“Is he a psychopath? In my view, absolutely. Because he is, in a cold and calculating way, working to destroy my religion; he is using the position that he has within the Church of Scientology for personal benefit, for personal control, to be able to manipulate others, to be able to live a lifestyle that is simply not worthy of what he does or even legal frankly in my view with parishioners funds.”

“It’s supposed to go towards helping people. It’s supposed to go towards assisting others to have a better life, to providing people with solutions to problems, to assisting them. It's supposed to be for the community, it’s supposed to be for the greater mankind, It’s not supposed to be for lining his pocket.”

**On Tom Cruise and David Miscavige:**

"I do know in terms of Tom Cruise the two of them have created this bond and this friendship that seems to be ummm... well, it's been said before... unnaturally close."

"The amount of time that they spend together and the amount of advice backwards and forwards between a celebrity film star and the person running the Church of Scientology, it's very strange, it's a very strange relationship, that's all I can say. (How is it strange? What do you mean?) Ummm, lots of back rubbing, and lots of favours both ways it's just a very strange relationship."

"He uses him to pull strings, to get him places and get things done that he wants to get done."

**On Tom Cruise getting food poisoning:**

"Anyway, Tom Cruise got food poisoning. He apparently ate a prawn that was off, shrimp as they call it in the US, he ate a prawn that was off and he had food poisoning."

"There was an investigation that ensued and they decided that I was responsible because I had taken it out of the freezer and defrosted it under cold, running water. So I was removed, I was not allowed to see my husband, I was removed from the property and told that I was offloaded."

"I was given no opportunity to defend myself... they needed a head on a pike, as they call it, they needed someone to shoot, Tom Cruise got food poisoning, somebody's needs to go so I was, that was the end of me at the International Headquarters of Scientology."

"I found out it was David Miscavige who ordered me off, he was the one who said off with her head."

"I was sent to hard labour."

"In the 13 years I was at the international base I think I might have had two or three days off total."

"Every phone call is listened to, every letter is read, in and out, it gets to a point that people really have nobody left to go to in many cases. In my view it's a violation of human rights."

"People there have no access to the internet, they're very cut off from the outside world. So if you can imagine living on a desert island for ten or 15 years, the step of reconnecting with society - I mean it's a big step!"

**On Speaking Out:**

"I need to do something to assist those people because I don't know, in one year in two years, in five years I don't know where this is going to go but it's not good."

“Wherever it is going to go it’s walking down a path at the moment that is just scary and it hasn’t improved. I watched it steadily decline from the early 90’s all the way through to 2003 I just saw it go down and down and down and from what I’ve heard its continuing to get worse.”

“A Church of Scientology is supposed to be a comfortable, a very comfortable and homey place where anybody can come for assistance or help with problems, it’s not supposed to be anything else so I’m not at all convinced that this new Ideal Organisation of Melbourne is going to solve any problems. The actual problem is that David Miscavige is driving everything south.”

**On her faith in Scientology and L Ron Hubbard:**

“Look, it’s a silly question in my view because if you had a man and he invented... let’s say he invented a tractor and the tractor worked and the tractor could plough the fields and could do what you wanted to do with it, you wouldn’t sit back and evaluate the tractor and say well did the guy who invented the tractor did he really do this, did he really do that?”

“To me, I look at the body of work, I look at what he produced in his lifetime, I look at the technology, the philosophy itself and I say does it work for me? Yes it does.”